

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dynamically pricing viewing options in a digital broadband delivery system, the method comprising:

receiving bandwidth allocation schedule information describing a division of bandwidth[[,]] during a plurality of ~~schedule time~~ periods, the division of bandwidth being between at least a first service and a second service provided by the digital broadband delivery system to a plurality of digital home communication terminals; and

dynamically assigning a price criterion to each of a group of viewing options for a video program, each viewing option associated with a content delivery mode, the assignment based at least in part on the bandwidth allocation schedule information.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a subscriber request related to at least one viewing option selected from the group of viewing options.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein receiving the subscriber request comprises receiving a subscriber request that comprises a request for a list of available viewing options.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising transmitting a price criterion for the viewing option to the subscriber in response to the subscriber request.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically assigning the price criterion to a group of viewing options comprises dynamically assigning a price criterion to each of a group of viewing options, wherein the group of viewing options comprises one of a reservation option, a random access option, and an on-demand random access option.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein dynamically assigning a price criterion to a group of viewing options comprises dynamically assigning a price criterion to a group of viewing options wherein the price criterion assigned to the random access option comprises a fee associated with a length of time that random access features are employed.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically assigning a price criterion to a group of viewing options comprises dynamically assigning a price criterion to a group of viewing options wherein the price criterion is based at least in part on one of subscriber profile data and subscriber priority data.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically assigning a price criterion to a group of viewing options comprises dynamically assigning a price criterion to a group of viewing options, wherein the price criterion comprises one of a subscriber incentive and a subscriber reward.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the assigned price criterion for at least one of the group of viewing options to a subscriber.

11. (Currently Amended) A pricing system for a digital broadband delivery system wherein the digital broadband delivery system comprises a bandwidth allocation manager and wherein the pricing system receives bandwidth allocation schedule information describing a division of bandwidth[[.]] during a plurality of ~~schedule time~~ periods, the division of bandwidth being between at least a first service and a second service provided by the digital broadband delivery system to a plurality of digital home communication terminals, and dynamically assigns

a price criterion to each of a group of viewing options for a video program, each viewing option associated with a content delivery mode, the assignment based at least in part on the bandwidth allocation information.

12. (Original) The pricing system of claim 11, wherein the pricing system receives a subscriber request related to at least one viewing option selected from the group of viewing options.

13. (Previously Presented) The pricing system of claim 12, wherein the subscriber request received by the pricing system comprises a request for a list of available viewing options.

14. (Original) The pricing system of claim 12, wherein the pricing system transmits at least one price criterion to the subscriber in response to the subscriber request.

15. (Previously Presented) The pricing system of claim 11, wherein the group of viewing options comprises one of a reservation option, a random access option, and an on-demand random access option.

16. (Original) The pricing system of claim 15, wherein price criterion assigned to the random access option comprises a fee associated with a length of time that random access features are employed.

17. (Previously Presented) The pricing system of claim 11, wherein the price criterion for at least one viewing option selected from the group of viewing options is based at least in part on at least one of subscriber profile data and subscriber priority data.

18. (Original) The pricing system of claim 11, wherein the price criterion for at least one viewing option selected from the group of viewing options comprises one of a subscriber incentive and a subscriber reward.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A headend in a digital broadband delivery system comprising:

a bandwidth allocation manager that produces a bandwidth allocation schedule by dynamically assigning one of a plurality of content delivery modes to each of a plurality of digital transmission channels for each of a plurality of time periods, resulting in a division of bandwidth between the plurality of content delivery modes for each of the time periods; and

a pricing system that receives bandwidth allocation information from the bandwidth allocation manager, describing the division of bandwidth between the content delivery modes, and that dynamically assigns a price criterion to each of a group of viewing options based at least in part on the bandwidth allocation ~~schedule~~ information received from the bandwidth allocation manager.

21. (Original) The headend of claim 20, wherein the pricing system receives a subscriber request related to at least one viewing option selected from the group of viewing options.

22. (Previously Presented) The headend of claim 21, wherein the subscriber request received by the pricing system comprises a request for a list of available viewing options.

23. (Original) The headend of claim 21, wherein the pricing system transmits at least one price criterion to the subscriber in response to the subscriber request.

24. (Previously Presented) The headend of claim 20, wherein the group of viewing options comprises one of a reservation option, a random access option, and an on-demand random access option.

25. (Original) The headend of claim 24, wherein price criterion assigned to the random access option comprises a fee associated with the length of time that random access features are employed.

26. (Previously Presented) The headend of claim 20, wherein the price criterion for at least one viewing option selected from the group of viewing options is based at least in part on one of subscriber profile data, subscriber priority data, and subscriber priority data.

27. (Original) The headend of claim 20, wherein the price criterion for at least one viewing option selected from the group of viewing options comprises one of a subscriber incentive and a subscriber reward.

28. (Previously Presented) The headend of claim 20, wherein the bandwidth allocation information comprises information from the bandwidth allocation schedule.

29. (Currently Amended) A digital broadband delivery system comprising:
a bandwidth allocation scheduler that dynamically assigns one of a plurality of content delivery modes to each of a group of digital transmission channels for each of a plurality of time periods, resulting in a division of bandwidth between the plurality of content delivery modes for each of the time periods;

a pricing system that receives bandwidth allocation information from the bandwidth allocation manager, describing the division of bandwidth between the content delivery modes,

and that dynamically assigns a price criterion to each of a group of viewing options based at least in part on the bandwidth allocation information; and

a digital home communication terminal comprising an interface that receives a subscriber request regarding one of the group of viewing options and a tuner that transmits the subscriber request to the headend.

30. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 29, wherein the digital home communication terminal further comprises an interface for displaying a price criterion received from the headend in response to the subscriber request.

31. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 29, wherein the digital home communication terminal further comprises an interface for displaying a menu comprising at least two viewing options selected from the group of viewing options and the price criteria assigned to the at least two viewing options.

32. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 29, wherein the digital home communication terminal further comprises an interface for displaying an indication of usage of a viewing option.

33. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 32, wherein the interface for displaying an indication of usage of a viewing option comprises an interface for displaying one of elapsed time, time remaining, and cost incurred through use of a viewing option.

34. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 32, wherein the interface for displaying an indication of usage of a viewing option comprises an interface for displaying the indication of usage of a viewing option intermittently.

35. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 32, wherein the interface for displaying an indication of usage of a viewing option comprises an interface for displaying the indication of usage of a viewing option in response to the occurrence of a predefined event.

36. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 35, wherein the predefined event comprises one of a change in usage of a viewing option, use of a random access feature associated with a viewing option, and expiration of an elapsed time period.

37. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 29, wherein the digital home communication terminal further comprises an interface for displaying an indication of an available alternate viewing option.

38. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 37, wherein the interface for displaying an indication of an available alternate viewing option comprises a selectable icon representing a menu of available alternate viewing options.

39. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 37, wherein the interface for displaying an indication of an available alternate viewing option comprises an interface for displaying the indication of an available alternate viewing option in response to the occurrence of a predefined event.

40. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 37, wherein the predefined event comprises one of a change in usage of a viewing option, use of a random access feature associated with a viewing option, expiration of an elapsed time period, and a change in available alternate viewing options.

41. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 29, wherein the subscriber request received by the digital home communication terminal comprises one of a request for a price criterion for a viewing option, a request for viewing a program according to a viewing option, and a request for a list of available viewing options.

42. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 29, wherein the group of viewing options comprises one of a reservation option, a normal-play option, a random access option, an on-demand random access option, and an adjust preference option.

43. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 42, wherein the price criterion assigned to the random access option comprises a fee associated with a length of time that random access features are employed.

44. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 29, wherein the price criterion for at least one viewing option selected from the group of viewing options is based at least in part on one of subscriber profile data, subscriber priority data, time of bandwidth consumption, and a subscriber viewing time preference.

45. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 29, wherein the digital home communication terminal further comprises a storage device for storing content associated with a viewing option.

46. (Original) The digital broadband delivery system of claim 45, wherein the digital home communication terminal downloads content associated with a viewing option during a time period of low bandwidth consumption and stores the content in the storage device for later retrieval.